

Current and Planned City of Philadelphia Initiatives

Working with other community-based, business, and government organizations, the City of Philadelphia is already at the forefront of many of the municipal and community actions suggested in the Climate Change Resolution. Efforts completed or currently underway by the City include the following:

- A. The Division of Air Management Services has completed an inventory of City global-warming emissions, and the Municipal Energy Office has completed a Sustainable Energy Management Plan.
- B. The Neighborhood Transformation Initiative (“NTI”), New River City, and ongoing work by City agencies are positioning City neighborhoods, infrastructure, and development sites to capture more investment from households and businesses who value compact, walkable communities and workplaces, rather than continued investment in “sprawl.”
- C. Work by the Planning Commission indirectly incorporates several sustainable development concepts, including urban renewal, job creation, improved surface water quality, and decreased environmental degradation. The Planning Commission also cooperates with the Water Department in handling stormwater management, and with NTI in fostering site design to help alleviate urban blight. The Water Department has also enacted a number of energy initiatives.
- D. The City has actively engaged the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and the Commonwealth to stabilize and strengthen energy-efficient and equitable public-transit service in Philadelphia. The City is the first local government to implement car-sharing as a fleet reduction program. Planning Commission staffs are actively working on updates to parking, bicycle, and pedestrian policies.
- E. Philadelphia City Planning Commission staff are considering a proposal from the Delaware Valley Green Building Council regarding opportunities for PCPC to take part in the U.S. Green Building Council’s pilot Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Design (LEED-ND)¹ project.
- F. Although the City has not yet certified a LEED building, all major new construction projects over the past 3-4 years have incorporated LEED standards.
- G. The City continues to participate in the Philadelphia Million Solar Roof Partnership, which works to stimulate the local renewable energy market. The Department of Licenses and Inspections participated in a training on solar energy installations in order to educate its inspectors and code representatives.

¹ The LEED Green Building Rating System[®] is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council representing all segments of the building industry developed LEED and continue to contribute to its evolution.

- H. The Municipal Energy Office can document significant savings from energy efficiency retrofit projects, as well as the new Energy Conservation Initiative (department-level reduction targets).
- I. The Procurement Department has several contracts that specify Energy Star standards, including office equipment and computers. The Office of Housing and Community Development is building all affordable housing projects to the Energy Star Home standards.
- J. The Office of Fleet Management has achieved major fleet reduction goals, and will consider a bio-diesel pilot when the Commonwealth's amended Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program opens later this summer. Air Management Services recently announced increased enforcement of anti-idling laws.
- K. The Recycling Office has launched pilot projects for the innovative Recycle Bank program that provides private consumer incentives (retail coupons).
- L. The City posts its High Performance Renovation Building Guidelines on the City's website. The Guidelines refer to energy and greenhouse gas savings related to energy conservation and efficiency.